

STEPHEN MARCHAM OF VERNON,
CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Stephen Marcham of Vernon, Connecticut who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on March 19, 2009.

Steve Marcham was a lifelong resident of Vernon, a town he loved dearly. Steve attended Rockville High School and later enrolled at the University of Connecticut where he earned his degree from the School of Pharmacy. After graduation, Steve returned to Vernon, Connecticut and became co-owner of Vincent's Pharmacy where he had worked since high school. During his more than 30 years at Vincent's, Steve was recognized for his outstanding community service when he received the A. H. Robbins Bowl of Hygeia Award, the Pharmacy Leadership Award from the National Association of Retail Druggists and the 2006 Daniel Leone Pharmacist of the Year award from the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. As his customers could tell you, Steve's care and compassion for his fellow man found their outlet within the walls of Vincent's.

In addition to his service as a community pharmacist, Steve had a deep passion for public service. It was here in the public arena that Steve created a lasting mark as a progressive who built consensus with one overriding goal: improving his community. In 1969 while still attending the University of Connecticut, Steve became the youngest official elected to public office when he won a seat on the Board of Education. After serving on the Board of Education for a number of terms, Steve was elected to the Town Council before being appointed in 1986 to serve as the Mayor, a position which he held until 1989. A decade later, he was re-elected to that office. As Mayor, Steve was well known for his efforts to bridge the political divide. Above all of his political achievements, however, it was the kindness and grace of Steve that endeared him to both his colleagues and the people of Vernon.

Even more than his impressive success as a health care provider and public official, Steve was a wonderful parent and husband. He was part of a beautiful family including his wife Jan and daughter Ashley. They did everything together—trips to Cape Cod, campaigning together for office, attending Ashley's marching band events and family gatherings with the Marchams and the Bozcars.

Steve was a true example and inspiration to us all showing how to balance work, community and family flawlessly. He was in many ways a Jimmy Stewart-like figure from "It's a Wonderful Life." It was an honor to have known him and worked with him during my years in the state legislature and the Congress.

For those of us who knew him and had the honor and privilege to call him a friend, this is a difficult time. To Janice, his wife, Ashley, his daughter, and his beloved mother Frances, we offer our sympathy and thanks for allowing Steve to be a part of our lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Steve Marcham.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the anniversary of Greek independence, which occurred on March 25, 1821. It's been one hundred and eighty-eight years since Greece obtained freedom from the oppressive Ottoman Empire.

Like our own American Founding Fathers, the people of Greece fought valiantly to achieve independence from a sprawling empire that treated its citizens like subjects. The Greek revolutionaries also drew much of their authority from European philosophers, much like our forefathers who were motivated by classical and English values. A culture steeped in such a rich tradition, such as Greece, can be celebrated by all Americans. As the birthplace of democracy, Greece has informed numerous self-government efforts across the world.

The celebration of Greek independence coincides with a Greek Orthodox holiday, the Annunciation of the Theotokos. Yet Greece's bloody struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire bears little resemblance to the peaceful appearance of the Archangel Gabriel. The Greeks endured atrocities such as the Chios Massacre, the massacre of Heraklion, and the Destruction of Psara; most of these conflicts were religiously motivated and they highlight the Greek dedication to freedom.

After eight years of brutal fighting, the Greek people were finally able to achieve independence. The Treaty of Constantinople was signed in July 1832, giving Greece its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

I am honored to cosponsor H.J. Res. 39, which recognizes the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece. Furthermore, I am pleased that this bill is scheduled to be considered by the House of Representatives today.

I would again like to congratulate Greece for celebrating such a momentous occasion. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past, to take pride in your nation, and to look ahead to a future of promise.

COMMENDING MILDRED LEWIS OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Mildred Lewis of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of

women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Civic Leadership Award will be given to Mildred Lewis because of her extensive commitment to making our community a better place. For 15 years, Mildred has served as the president of the Cranford Chapter of the League of Women Voters, coordinating candidates' forums at both the municipal and county levels. Mildred has conducted voter registration drives and prepared and distributed educational materials about voters' rights and ballot initiatives regarding education, women's issues, and natural resources.

Mildred is also a member of the Roselle-Cranford Hadassah where she is active in many aspects, including the Bulletin, American Affairs, and fund-raising dinners. Ms. Lewis also worked as a full time volunteer at Alexian Brothers Hospital in Elizabeth, New Jersey where she manages volunteers. Mildred also volunteered at Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim as the kitchen coordinator, where she plans and creates meals for more than 100 people.

Mildred has also been active in the Cranford Historical Society and is a member of several other Jewish organizations, including National Council of Jewish Women and the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim.

Mrs. Lewis and her husband George have been married for more than 60 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Mildred Lewis of Cranford, New Jersey has made significant contributions to so many in her community. I am pleased to congratulate Mildred Lewis for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILLY" THOMAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the entire nation, the work of my constituent William "Billy" Thomas. Mr. Thomas is a great man who will be honored by the citizens of Mount Vernon, New York for his lifelong work. It is a body of work that has always personified actions that go way beyond the call of duty. The City of Mount Vernon, New York, will rename South Sixth Avenue William "Billy" Thomas Boulevard, after its beloved local and national pioneer in youth development.

William "Billy" Thomas began working at the Mount Vernon (NY) Boys' Club (MVBC) in 1955. Over the next 22 years he rose from athletic to program to camp and finally to Executive Director. During each and every year, young men were placed in his skillful hands and taught the values of life, service to community, sportsmanship, courage, integrity and respect for self and others. He became an icon, a living legend for his work in inspiring young people to pursue and live positive and progressive family and professional lives.

In 1968, duty to his nation called. Mr. Thomas took leave from his work and joined the United States Army to serve in Vietnam. He